Under scheme of 'National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons', an outstanding sportsperson, who has represented the country in an international competition including Asian Games and championships and is living in indigent circumstances is entitled to a pension not exceeding Rs. 2500/-p.m.

Construction of Olympic size swimming pools by SAI

398. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sports Authority of India has agreed to build Olympic size and standard swimming pools in all States;

(b) if so, the details of this decision by the SAI;

(c) when will the SAI start working on this scheme in various States;

(d) what will be the funding required for such a project; and

(e) the details of the funding pattern available if State Governments want to build such swimming pools?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Under the 'Scheme of Grant for Creation of Sports Infrastructure', State Governments can avail of Central assistance for a 8-lane swimming pool measuring 50m x 21m along with filtration plant, change rooms, toilets and showers. The cost sharing pattern between the Government of India and the State Government is 50 : 50 subject to a maximum Central assistance of Rs. 60 lakhs, whichever is less. In case of special category States and projects in notified hilly/tribal areas, the cost sharing pattern is 75 : 25 subject to a ceiling of Rs. 90 lakhs, whichever is less.

Steps to check doping menace among athletes

399. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some athletes who are preparing for the Athens Olympics, slated for August, 2004, have reportedly been taking performance-enhancing drugs, code-named "white tablets", that are banned by the International Olympics Committee, and are meticulously following a doping chart given to them;

(b) if so, the results of any enquiry made in this regard; and

(c) the details of steps initiated to check and protect the athletes from the doping menance and motivate them to upgrade their own genuine talents to keep up the national honour in the international arena?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the National Coaching Camps, athletes are educated about the prohibited substances and methods as notified by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and its harmful effects. An information guide in the form of a Directory on 'Drugs in Sports' and Handbook on 'Drugs Abuse in Sports' developed by the Lab Scientists are also circulated among sportspersons, coaches, doctors and athlete's support personnel as part of the educational programme. List of banned drugs and placards for educating the players are also put in the rooms of the campers. Random checking of the rooms of the campers is also done to ensure that no banned drugs are being used. The Sports Medicine Doctors at Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Patiala and other Regional Centres of Sports Authority of India conduct lectures to educate the players not to use any banned drugs. Aprat from the above, random tests are also done during coaching camps, selection trials, domestic competitions as well as prior to participation in international competitions.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MoU (2004-05) between Government of India and Bharat Earth Movers Ltd., Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., Goa Shipyard Ltd. and Mazagaon Dock Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production) and the Bharat Earth Movers Limited for the year 2004-05 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 202/04]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production) and the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited for the year 2004-05 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 205/04]